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July 1, 2013

## FILED ELECTRONICALLY, EXHIBITS ONLY VIA HAND-DELIVERY

The Honorable Jocelyn D. Boyd Clerk SC Public Service Commission P.O. Drawer 11649 101 Executive Center Dr., #100 Columbia, SC 29210

RE:

Nexus Communications, Incorporated Annual ETC Report

Docket No. 2008-275-C Our File No. 052440-011937

Dear Jocelyn:

Enclosed please find Nexus Communications, Inc.'s ("Nexus") annual Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Report, as required to be filed by 10 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-690.1.

Nexus considers Exhibits 1-3 to this Report to be highly confidential and proprietary, and is providing same to the Commission and to the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") in a sealed envelope. Nexus requests that the Commission grant confidential treatment for these documents, consistent with the Rules of the Commission and Commission Order 2005-226. These exhibits contain competitively sensitive information that is entitled to protection under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

If you have any questions about this filing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

s / John J. Pringle, Jr. John J. Pringle, Jr.

JJP/cr

Enclosures (as stated)

Nanette Edwards, Esquire (via electronic mail and hand-delivery of Exhibits 1-3) Danielle Frappier, Esquire (via electronic mail)

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

#### **DOCKET NO. 2008-275-C**

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION OF THE USE	)	
OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUNDS PURSUANT TO 47 C.F.R. 54.314 AND	)	ETC ANNUAL DEDODE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT 254(e),	)	ETC ANNUAL REPORT
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION	)	
CC DOCKET 96-45 (2013) AND ANNUAL	)	
REPORTS FOR ETC	)	

## ANNUAL ETC REPORT OF NEXUS COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Pursuant to regulation 103.690.1 of the South Carolina Public Service Commission ("Commission"), Nexus Communications, Inc. ("Nexus", the "Company") hereby submits the Company's Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") annual report.

#### I. BACKGROUND

The Commission, by Order 2009-316 in Docket 2008-275-C, dated June 10, 2009, designated Nexus as an ETC pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2) and required that all federal Universal Service Fund ("USF") support received as a result of the Order would be used for Lifeline and Link-Up support for Low-Income customers. Based on this Order, the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") assigned Nexus Study Area Code 249007 for the Company's designated service area. Pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") rules, which require states to establish an annual certification process for Competitive Local Exchange Carriers ("CLECs") receiving federal low income support, Nexus submits this annual report for the purpose of

extending its ETC designation and the Commission's certification of Nexus' entitlement to receive low income support for the 2014 calendar year.

#### II. ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to the Commission's regulation 103.690.1, a common carrier designated under 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2) as an ETC after January 1, 2007 shall provide specific information in its ETC Annual Report. However, as Nexus' designation is limited to the receipt of low-income support from the USF's Low Income program, some of the information requested by the Commission's regulation is not applicable to Nexus, as that information is specifically required of ETCs that receive High Cost support. Consistent with 103.690.1.B(b)(11), Nexus will, in this report, provide information sought by the Commission that is applicable to ETCs that participate only in the Lifeline program.

#### A. <u>103-690.1.B(a) - Commitment to Meet Service Quality Standards</u>

Nexus commits that it meets the service quality standards outlined in Section 103-663 of the Regulations.

B. 103-690.1.B(b)(3) - The Number of Requests for Service From Potential
Customers Within the Eligible Telecommunications Carrier's Service
Areas that were Unfulfilled During the Past Year and How the ETC
Attempted to Provide Service to Those Potential Customers.

During the current reporting period, Nexus reports there were no unfulfilled requests for service from potential customers in the past year in the Company's designated service area in the State of South Carolina.

C. 103.690.1.B(b)(4) - The Number of Complaints or Trouble Reports per 1000 Handsets or Access Lines.

Nexus reports that it received no complaints or trouble reports in the State of South Carolina in the past year.

D. 103-690.1.B(b)(5) - Certification that it is Complying with Applicable Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules, as Designated by the Commission.

Nexus certifies compliance with all applicable Commission service quality, consumer protection requirements and standards and supports 911 services as applicable and will continue to strive for excellence in all areas of customer service.

E. 103-690.1.B(b)((6) – A Detailed Report and Certification that the Carrier is Able to Function in Emergency Situations.

Nexus certifies that it continues to maintain the ability to remain functional in emergency situations. Nexus provides the services designated for support using a combination of its own facilities and facilities and services of its underlying carrier, AT&T South Carolina. As such, Nexus has access to the extensive, robust network of AT&T South Carolina and, per regulation 103-690.1.B(b)(11), understands that AT&T continues to have the ability to manage traffic spikes that may occur during emergency situations and the capability to reroute traffic in the event of damaged facilities. In addition, it is Nexus' understanding that AT&T South Carolina has sufficient backup power to ensure functionality without an external power source.

F. 103-690.1.B(b)(7) - For Non-Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers Certification that the Carrier is Offering a Local Usage Plan Comparable to that Offered by the Incumbent LEC in the Relevant Service Areas.

The Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") recently amended 47 C.F.R. § 54.101 to specify that "voice telephony service" is the service supported by the federal Low Income program, replacing the local usage requirement with a requirement to provide "minutes of local service provided at no additional charges to end users."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a) (revised in *In Re Connect America Fund, et al.*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 26 FCC Rcd 17663 (FCC rel. Nov. 18, 2011, and further revised in *In Re Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, et al.*,

Consistent with this change, the FCC established reporting requirements applicable to ETCs that receive low-income support. Instead of providing information on local usage, 47 C.F.R. § 54.422(a)(2) requires ETCs that receive only low-income support to provide "[i]nformation describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers, including details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan, additional charges, if any, for toll calls, and rates for each such plan." Nexus currently offers the following wireline Lifeline plans and pricing in South Carolina, both of which include caller ID, call waiting, speed dialing and call forwarding.

#### Feature Calling Plan

Pre-Discount Price	\$43.45
Less Lifeline Discount	-\$9.25
Out-of-pocket Cost to Subscriber	\$34.20
Number of Minutes	unlimited

#### **Basic Calling Plan**

Pre-Discount Price	\$38.45
Less Lifeline Discount	-\$9.25
Out-of-pocket Cost to Subscriber	\$29.20
Number of Minutes	unlimited

A subscriber-chosen alternative Long Distance provider will independently bill toll charges to the subscriber. As a result, no additional charges for toll service are added to Nexus' monthly recurring rate for local service.

Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 27 FCC Red 6656 (FCC rel. Feb. 6, 2012).

G. 103-690.1.B(b)(8) - Certification that the Carrier Acknowledges that the Federal Communications Commission May Require it to Provide Equal Access to Long Distance Carriers in the Event that No Other Eligible Telecommunications Carrier is Providing Equal Access Within the Service Area.

The requirement to provide equal access to long distance providers has been eliminated from the federal rules governing ETC designation. As such, Nexus believes the requirement to no longer be applicable.

H. 103-690.1.B(b)(9) - The number of Lifeline Customers and the Number of Customers that Received Link Up Assistance as of December 31st of the Prior Year.

### See attached **CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBIT 1**.

I. 103-690.1.B(b)(10) - Copies of Responses to the Lifeline Verification Survey or Certification Filed with the Universal Service Administrative Company on January 31st of each year as described in FCC Public Notice DA 07-3088.

See attached **CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBIT 2**. Nexus has previously filed this certification with the Commission on a confidential basis.

J. A Copy of the of the USAC Form 497 Report for the Most Recent Calendar Quarter as Submitted to USAC.

See attached **CONFIDENTIAL EXHIBIT 3**. Nexus is providing its FCC Form 497s for January, February and March because it has not yet filed its form for June 2013, which is due on July 8, 2013.

#### III. CONCLUSION

Nexus respectfully request that the Commission re-certify Nexus's designation as an ETC throughout the Company's designated service located in and throughout the State of South Carolina. As set forth above, Nexus satisfies all of the annual reporting requirements established by the Commission as they pertain to ETC re-certification. As a

result, Nexus asks that its designation be re-certified throughout the Company's designated service area. In addition, Nexus requests that the Commission submit a letter to the FCC and USAC certifying that Nexus is in compliance with all provisions of its ETC designation and uses all support received only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and service for which support is intended and is eligible to receive universal service support for the coming calendar year.

#### **AFFIDAVIT**

State of Ohio

County of Franklin

Steven Fenker, being duly sworn, states as follows:

- I am President of Nexus Communications, Inc. In this position, I am
  personally familiar with the Federal Universal Service support received by
  Nexus and how that support is used.
- 2. The Federal Universal Service support funds received by Nexus are and will be used only for the purposes for which that support is intended. Specifically, Nexus will use the support to provide the supported services as designated in 47 C.F.R. § 54.101 which Nexus makes available through its designated service area in the State of South Carolina.
- 3. I have read Nexus's Annual Report for 2013 and confirm that the information contained is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
  The matters addressed above are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct.

Steven Fenker

Taken, sworn to and subscribes before me this 1st day of July, 2013.

Notary Public

My commission expires on the 10 day of MHVCh, 2014